of this, the Customs authorities in Bombay have investigated 88 export firms involving duty evasion of Rs. 98.57 crores (approx.). These exporters have inflated the net weight of export goods by using forged documents or misdeclared the blend of the fabric, with a view to import excess quantities of Polyester Filament Yarn under the Duty Exemption Scheme. An amount of Rs. 22.23 crores has been recovered during the investigation.

(c) 46 persons including exporters, clearing agents and the persons concerned with exporting firms were arrested, out of which ten persons have been detained under COFEPOSA. Two Customs officers were also arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, besides, six officers placed under suspension. The Licensing authorities have cancelled 184 licences so far. Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax authorities have also been informed in the relevant cases to initiate necessary action under their Acts.

Verification of Coal Stock

5651. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the present coal stock position in Coal stockyard of Western Coalfield Limited;

(b) whether the physical verification of the coal stock position in the WCL have ever been held during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the responsibility fixed by the Government against those who are showing wrong stock positions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is not operating any stockyards. However, the overall coal stocks in the mines of WCL as on 31.3.96 were 1.39 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) to (d). Coal India Limited have reported that physical verification of coal stock position in WCL has been done during each of the three previous years.

During the physical verification of stock by CIL Team for the year 1993-94, one case of shortage beyond the permissible limit of 5% was detected in Shivpuri under ground mine of Pench area. Necessary disciplinary action has been initiated.

Further as per check measurement carried out by WCL Head quarter team for the year 1993-94, three cases of shortages beyond permissible limit at Sasti opencast mine, Niljai II opencast mines and Kukurkunda opencast mine were detected. These cases are under investigation for taking appropriate action as per policy in force.

MOU System

5652. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking the decision for signing MOU regarding sick public sector undertakings;

(b) the expected result of the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs.

(c) the allocation made for the year 1996-97 for augmenting the MOU Scheme; and

(d) the further steps being taken to strengthen the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) This was done primarily to focus the attention of the managements of sick PSUs on all relevant factors in a set order of priority so as to make the revival package of sick PSUs more broad based and thus enhance the success of the package.

(b) It is expected that the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs will help in revival of these sick PSUs through focus on improvement in efficiency, productivity and better profitability.

(c) No separate allocation is made for MOU scheme. The expenditure is met out of the Budget for Department of Public Enterprises.

(d) The following steps have been taken to strengthen the MOU scheme.

(i) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability.

(ii) To improve target setting, bench marking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sectors. One such study in respect of Fertilizers sector has been completed.

(iiii) 60% of wieght in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria is order to ensure fiscal discipline.

Loan Waiver Scheme in J & K

5653. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan proposed to be waived from the accounts of various banks in Jammu and Kashmir and the criteria laid down for such waiver ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to pay the amount back to the banks as a measure of public accountability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As per the statement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister in both the Houses of Parliament on 2nd August, 1996, announcing an economic package for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government proposes